



HR0741

LRB099 14140 MST 38181 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Michael
4 Edward Banks, Sr. of Chicago, who passed away on August 25,
5 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, Michael Banks, Sr. was born in Chicago on June 4,
7 1945 to Edward Caldwell and Pauline Pruitt Banks; he graduated
8 2 years early from Harlan High School, where he received
9 accolades and awards in basketball and track and set a Chicago
10 city record in the long jump, a record that remained untouched
11 for decades; he attended Bradley University on an athletic
12 scholarship, where he joined the Epsilon Kappa Chapter of Alpha
13 Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; he graduated with a Bachelor of
14 Science in Business and Education; while a student at Bradley
15 University, he led a group of students on a march down Main
16 Street to call attention to discrimination in housing; he
17 married Stephanie Jones Banks; he later married Joyce King
18 Banks; and

19 WHEREAS, Michael Banks, Sr. joined the professional staff
20 of Bradley University; during his tenure there, he served in
21 several capacities, including being responsible for the men's
22 residence halls, fraternity affairs, and minority student
23 affairs; he served as Assistant Dean of Men and Assistant to

1 the Dean of Students; he was founder of the Black Studies and
2 Cultural Arts Center; he founded Music with A Message, Peoria's
3 first minority news and information and entertainment radio
4 broadcast (1968-1993); and

5 WHEREAS, Michael Banks, Sr. traveled extensively on the
6 African Continent as a fundraiser for African Independence
7 Groups associated with Nelson Mandela; he served as Executive
8 Director of Peoria's Citizen's Committee for Economic
9 Opportunity, Inc., a position he held for nearly 20 years;
10 under his leadership, the following programs were initiated:
11 Webster Head Start, day care services, kindergarten, before and
12 after school latch-key programming, alcohol rehabilitation
13 services, a Senior Drop In Center, neighborhood outreach
14 centers, information and referral services, radio and
15 television programming, weatherization and housing
16 rehabilitation services, and a food service operation; he
17 initiated Community Economic Development projects for PCCEO,
18 Inc. and formed the Peoria Economic Development Association, a
19 local SBA development Corporation; during his tenure as
20 Executive Director of PCCEO, Inc., he also started a 40 acre
21 farm co-op that once served 100 families; and

22 WHEREAS, Michael Banks, Sr. served as President at the
23 National Center for Community Action and as President of the
24 Illinois Community Action Association; he was recognized by his

1 peers for his strong leadership skills and effective management
2 style; he played an integral role in establishing the first
3 black owned and operated radio station in Peoria, WBGE 92.3FM;
4 he served as general manager of B&G Broadcasting until 2000;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Michael Banks, Sr. relocated to Chicago, his home
7 town, in 2001; he founded and served as President/CEO of MEBA
8 LLC., a consultant firm for non-profit organizations; he served
9 as a consultant to the Community and Economic Development
10 Association of Cook County, Inc.'s planning department until
11 his retirement in 2012; he started an Internet radio broadcast,
12 "Mr. B's Showcase", once again using the theme Music with a
13 Message; and

14 WHEREAS, Michael Banks, Sr. married Noel Stewart Banks on
15 April 19, 2013; and

16 WHEREAS, Michael Banks, Sr. was preceded in death by his
17 parents; and

18 WHEREAS, Michael Banks, Sr. is survived by his wife, Noel;
19 his son, Michael Banks, Jr.; his daughter, Ebony Banks (Emorej)
20 Henderson and a precious grandson, Elisha A. Henderson; his
21 brother, Phillip Banks; his 3 sisters, Rita Jackson, Patricia
22 Hodges, and Lori Jackson; his uncle, Wilfred (Betty) Banks; and

1 a host of nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews,
2 loving cousins, and very special friends; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
5 mourn the passing of Michael Edward Banks, Sr., and extend our
6 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
7 and loved him; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the family of Michael Banks, Sr. as an expression
10 of our deepest sympathy.